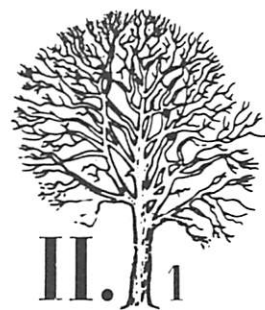


ACORN



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

President:	Peter John Stokes	Editor-in-Chief:	Marion W. Garland
Vice Presidents:	K. H. J. Clarke Mrs. D. G. Wilson William J. Moffet	Editors:	Marion W. Garland, Port Hope Isobel E. Coulthard, Toronto Daniel O'Brien, Hamilton Lucille Douglas, Cambridge Susan Wilson, London Nicholas Hill, Huron County
Treasurer:	Wentworth D. Walker		
Secretary:	Duncan C. Lee		
Executive Secretary:	Barry Gringorten	Contributing Editor:	Peter John Stokes

The Cover

THE LITTLE BLUESTONE

Port Hope

As It Is Now — Upper Photograph

As It Could Be — Lower Drawing

In 1834, John David Smith built the Bluestone for his second wife. Later that year, when his second son, Elias Peter, was married, he built for him a smaller house close to the lake, still on the Smith property. Built of stone, as was the Bluestone, in the Greek Revival style, the Little Bluestone, as it has come to be called, has fallen on bad times. One railway now separates it from its namesake, and it sits a few feet from another set of tracks. A For Sale sign is hammered onto the building, its windows have been broken and are partially covered by plywood, vandals have broken into it many times and ripped out the plumbing and damaged parts of the interior. And yet, **The Little Bluestone is a gem!** There is still something proud about it as it sits so forlorn there by the tracks. Perhaps it is its Classical lines which give it dignity.

The Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is trying to buy it. Speaking of impossibles, this surely is one. When they first seriously thought about it last December, they only had three thousand dollars in the bank! They are hoping to buy the little house, restore it, and put it into use. Architect David J. Lane has given them a tentative figure of fifty thousand dollars as a restoration price. He also took the picture on the cover and did the attractive drawing underneath it.

As one of Port Hope's very few stone houses, and as one of the oldest in town, built by a descendant of one of Port Hope's founders, it has close historical connections with the town apart from its architectural merit.

The Little Bluestone must be saved!

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In this first issue for 1977, we can do no better than quote from the editorial of the first ACORN: "—to get on with the job and let everyone know about what goes on in the world of preservation." Those were the words of Peter John Stokes in his first editorial, and that is how we see the task. These few pages can only have a *raison d'être* if we share what we know with each other. And in that sharing is included things we have read, skills we have learned, jobs we have tried, and the impossibles we have tackled.

If ACORN is to continue, this material must come from you, thence to your branch editors, and eventually to us. The mantle has been put on new shoulders, and P. J. S.'s fears have been realized. Several *tête à têtes* regarding the future of ACORN were indeed unprintable!

However, the lines are still open; the new editor is still speaking to Mr. Stokes, but just. His thankfulness that Gil Simmons hadn't suggested 'ribald' for the R in ACORN is understandable, but one questions his next word — "yet".

Well, Mr. Stokes, just you wait!

* * * * *

The writer has a water-colour painting of Galt, done by her great uncle Captain John Herbert Caddy, around 1834. It shows the river and two stone buildings on one side of it, one probably a mill. If anyone would like to take a picture of it when he is in this part of the world, he is most welcome. Captain Caddy, an English army officer, saw early Canada through the eyes of a trained engineer, and thus his paintings are to be valued as accurate accounts of those days.

* * * * *

When architect Maximilian L. Ferro was in Canada, attending the Annual General Meeting of the Association for Preservation Technology, in Hamilton, he found time to visit Port Hope. He was taken on a tour of the town and took many pictures. He noted the general care and understanding lavished on Victorian Port Hope, and said it was an inspiration and the source of many future lectures. He mentioned one interesting point: "the strange chasm which seems to separate Canadian and U.S.A. branches of parallel disciplines. To American architectural historians, Canada might as well not be there, and it's high time for this to change."

Sad, but true.

As an aid to relieve this sad state of affairs, why not send a copy of ACORN to an American friend or relation who might be interested in knowing that we also love our old buildings and are doing something about saving them.

* * * * *

The editor in all humility accepts, for a time, her new job. She is anxious to learn the new skills, willing to give her time, and hopeful that her mistakes will be forgiven: they will be the shortcomings of inexperience.

M.W.G.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Well! Three Council meetings down, and many more happy and, we hope, productive sessions to go. Plans are afoot, after last year's week-end interlude at Port Hope, to invade the territory of other branches to share their wealth — of material and experience, to make all in Council aware of the Conservancy's many activities across the Province.

ACORN promises to be forceful and expressive— and what is more — on time. The Advisory Board has already been mooted, certain members of its old guard have met to discuss aims and the limits to its support and its particular usefulness as a complement to newer public effort being fostered by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. In fact, a provisional meeting on certain items in question in two Ontario communities was held recently to test the new approach determined as the appropriate range and scope of its advisory function; if effective more should follow.

We hear the branches sometimes wonder what function the Council usefully performs really. ACORN has become one, as a collector and distributor of news, views, and events throughout the Conservancy, or of causes it espouses to which, by mention, it can lend support. Another is as a central register of members from which ACORN and other information of general interest can be sent. The Conservancy is now, in reality, a federation of active branches, and, through its council, can deliberate and evolve policies of benefit to all, promoting objectives which will forward the cause of preservation, gathering and sharing information, and last, but never to be forgotten, the right and responsibility to seek and raise funds to carry on the Conservancy's growing number of activities to lasting and telling achievement.

Peter John Stokes

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

From the Branches

PORT HOPE

On December 5th and 19th, two more bus tours took place. These Sunday tours are held in conjunction with the East Durham Historical Society. Houses on the east side of town were studied in the first tour. Mr. Max Wilson, of the Historical Society, giving the historical background and Mrs. Garland, of the Conservancy, mentioning the architectural aspects of the various houses. The second tour covered the west side of town, Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, speaking for the Conservancy, backed up by Mr. Walter Creswick and Mr. Wilf Day. Miss Anne Retallick did the historical commentaries. This tour terminated at the re-decorated Penryn Park, where nineteenth century Christmas decorations by Mrs. Chapple and her committee were much admired. Apart from co-operating with the Historical Society, the Conservancy set up these tours as a contribution to Olde Tyme Christmas.

* * * *

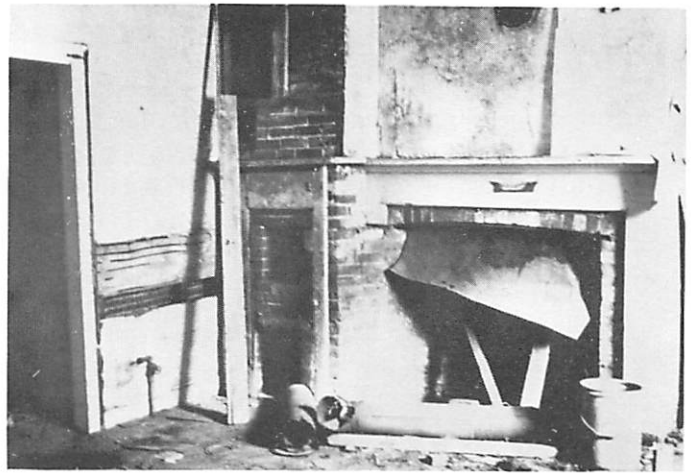
A new group within the Conservancy has been formed, named the Handy Hammer Group. It is under the leadership of Paul Wilson of the Octagon. The members, who live in older houses, meet to discuss mutual difficulties in repairing and restoring old houses, sharing expensive tools, expertise, and knowledge.

* * * *

Mrs. Garland is still working on her magnum opus, as Peter Stokes is wont to call it. However, the opus is not too magnum as yet, and she welcomes any additions of the names of banks in your towns or cities which have been demolished and replaced with new bank structures. She also lists banks which have restored or modified their old buildings in order to carry on with their banking business.

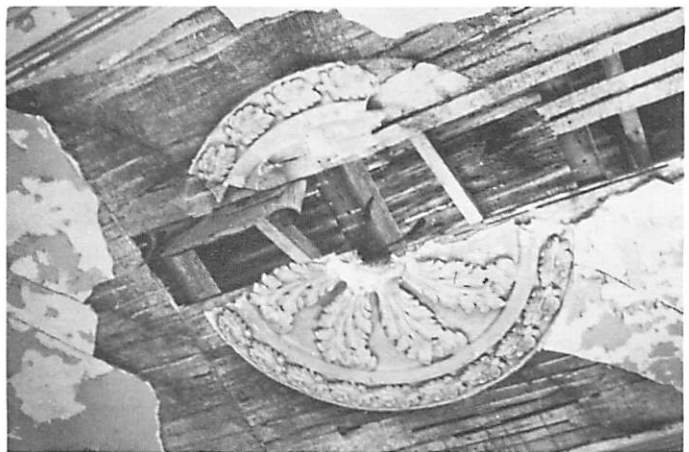
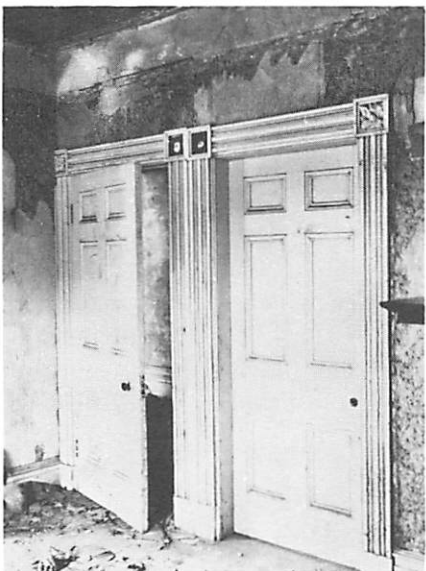
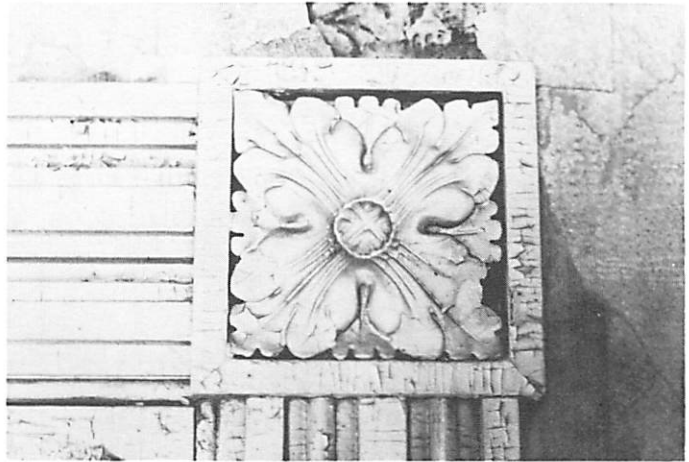
* * * *

There has only been a mild response from the citizens to the Branch's offer of free architectural advice from architect David Lane; still,



THE LITTLE BLUESTONE PORT HOPE

(see cover & page 1)



some owners have taken advantage of it. At least it has prompted some people to think architecturally when contemplating repairs and changes to their homes.

* * * *

On January 20th, Catharine Smale, a Director of Ontario Heritage Foundation, and George Kapelos of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, very kindly came from Toronto to explain to members about establishing a LACAC. The meeting was held at Penryn Park, and was also attended by two members of the Port Hope Council.

* * * * *

A meeting, open to the public, was held on February 14, at the Public Library. Pierre St. Laurent showed slides of Port Hope houses, commenting on the various architectural aspects, assisted by Marion Garland. The meeting was opened by the President, Mrs. Alice King Sculthorpe, who explained that the main purpose of the evening was to familiarize those present with some architectural terms. Architect and member, David Lane, was present to clear up any points in question. One highlight of the evening was his showing of a few of his drawings depicting a simple house, and its conversion to various styles in a succession of changes, ending with a humorous mish-mash of modern vernacular.

Dawson City Architecture

On February 24, John Dale and Yuri Rubinski, fourth year architectural students at the University of Toronto, spoke to a meeting at Penryn Park. Their slides showed the tents and turf-roofed log cabins of the early days of the Klondike gold rush, the later wood siding covered log buildings and false fronted stores and hotels on the main streets, and the present day condition of some of these buildings. It was a most interesting presentation.

Note from the branch president.

The Port Hope Branch is really taking a plunge into the sea of endeavour when it takes on the restoration of the Little Bluestone. We hope you will all watch our progress with interest, and anyone who feels like contributing either time or money to the project please write Mrs. R. J. W. Sculthorpe, R.R. 3, Port Hope, L1A 3V7.

Alice King Sculthorpe,
President, Port Hope Branch

(Any form of life preserver gratefully received. Ed.)

TORONTO

Gleanings from newsletters

A meeting scheduled for January 20th mentions a slide presentation by Mr. Alan Suddon, Head of the Fine Art Department of the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library, and Mr. Douglas Richardson, author and founder of the Society for the study of Architecture in Canada. Mr. Suddon and Mr. Richardson together were giving their talk titled 'Fancy Dress: Architecture and Costume,' developing the analogies to be drawn between the Art of Costume and the Art of Architecture.

* * * * *

In March, 1974, ACO wrote a letter to the Law Society supporting their views on the Elora Gorge. The battle continues, but it is nearing its conclusion. A significant victory has been achieved. The Ontario Municipal Board is going to allow a hearing. Letters do help! Be prepared to send another when the date of the hearing is announced.

* * * * *

For the February meeting, Mr. Jerome Markson and Mr. Kent Rawson, were giving a slide presentation on David Roberts, Jr. architect who practiced in Toronto 1868-1907. One of his buildings is the Gooderham office landmark at the corner of Wellington and Front Streets.

David Robert's father, David Roberts, Sr., was also an architect. Another father-son combination in the late 1800's was that of William Thomas and Sons. William Thomas arrived in Toronto in 1841 with his wife and eight children. Two (or three) of these children, William T. and Cyrus P., later trained with their father. Cyrus, as a partner in Wm. Thomas and Sons, designed the Court House and St. Matthew's Church in Halifax. After his father's death, William T. worked Montreal and designed several buildings there and in Ottawa. He was responsible for the Town Hall in Prescott, and St. James Church in Kemptonville.

William Thomas, Sr. is noted for his carved, bearded heads. These appear on his best known Toronto building, St. Lawrence Hall, on the City Hall in Guelph, and on the Lincoln County Court House at Niagara-on-the-Lake. Near this latter building is one of his best known works, Brock's Monument, at Queenston Heights.

Many denominations worshipped in his churches: Cookes Irish Presbyterian Church, Toronto, St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, London, St. Michael's Cathedral, Toronto, Second Zion Congregational Church, Toronto, and the New

Connexion Methodist Church on Temperance Street. St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Hamilton is famed for its beauty and stone spire.

William Thomas' last building, the Don Jail in Toronto, was not completed when he died in 1860.

One of the members of the Toronto executive giving the talk, Mr. Jerome Markson, has had his own architectural practice in Toronto since 1955. The other, Mr. Kent Rawson, is with the firm Moffat, Moffat and Kinoshita, Architects.

* * * * *

Parkdale Station

Parkdale Station has now been moved to its new location at Beaty Park (former site of the Sunnyside Station!) It has been shorn of its roof and canopies which must be rebuilt, and it must have a full basement under it. Then it is on its way towards a projected use as a community centre and museum. The Committee is still in desperate need of funds. Every \$1.00 you contribute raises \$3.00 — it is matched from Government funding. Donations should be sent to: The Treasurer, S.O.S. Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 209 Roncesvalles Ave., Toronto, M6R 2I5.



Drawing by Howard Walker

The adaptive use or sympathetic re-cycling of Railway Stations was the subject of our December meeting.

Although passenger trains have all but gone, most of the stations are still there and with their preservation other successful uses can be found for them. The very handsome station at Petrolia is now a library, the station at Whitby is an art gallery and workshop, while others have been re-used as restaurants or museums.

Unfortunately, many are scheduled for disposal or demolition. The rumoured demise of the CP railroad station at Pontypool is disturbing but of particular concern to Torontonians is the Parkdale Station. It has recently been moved to the site of the old Sunnyside station and will eventually become a community centre.

But these plans are dependent on further financial assistance and a new S.O.S. is being sent out. Please help, either sending money yourself, or by giving names of those who will, or by helping their appeal to business and industry.

The Parkdale Save Our Station Committee, pending incorporation of the Parkdale Village Foundation, arranges Income Tax receipts through the Toronto Historical Board. All moneys donated must be sent to the Treasurer, Miss Nettie Lukow, Manager, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 209 Roncesvalles, Toronto, Ontario, M6R 2L5.

* * * * *

Eden Smith Biography

An attractive looking biography of the late Eden Smith, architect, appeared in December, 1976. Prepared by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Toronto Region Branch, it is the first in what is hoped will be a series of similar books dedicated to those architects who have contributed so greatly to the heritage of Toronto. The research and text is by Carolyn Neal and the illustrations are by William J. Moffet. Below is one of Mr. Moffet's illustrations.



"BLYTHWOOD", 102 BLYTHWOOD ROAD, TORONTO

For extra copies (\$3.50 per copy) write to:
The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario,
Toronto Region Branch
166 Crescent Road, Toronto, M4W 1V2

* * * * *

April Meeting — Advance notice — Thursday, April 21, 1977.

Mr. John C. Parkin, Mr. Ronald J. Thom, and Mr. Eberhard H. Zeidler will participate in a study panel on the Don Jail. Mr. Howard V. Walker will act as Moderator. The panel will consider the architectural merit of Wm. Thomas' building and discuss economic possibilities for its adaptive re-

use. One of our members, Mr. Guy L. Saunders, has given us two good suggestions: that the cells be rented as dead storage for commercial records, that it be used as an artifact or mechanical museum.

HAMILTON

Great Lakes Tomorrow

In 1978-9, the International Joint Commission on the Great Lakes will hold public hearings on **Pollution Through Land Use**, such use involving lakeshore and also rivers, creeks and streams feeding the Great Lakes.

For these IJC hearings to be effective, it is essential for the public to know well ahead of time:

- A. That the hearings will take place
- B. How best to participate
- C. Where (or whether) information relevant to the public concern can be obtained.

Under the **Local Initiatives Program**, a grant has been made to **Great Lakes Tomorrow** to carry out a pilot project. In this project, GLT aims to,

1. Create an index of groups and individuals with specific, general and potential concern for Great Lakes matters.
2. Compose a bibliography of suitable book, slide, and film materials stimulating to the general reader.
3. Locate and list suitable technical reports, how they can be obtained.
4. Produce an informative brochure to be sent to all indexed groups and individuals as above, telling them of the IJC hearings and urging them to organize their own briefs and to communicate with other similar groups.
5. As part of the final LIP report, analyse the carrying out of this project so that, with appropriate funding, the project could be applied elsewhere.
6. The area to be served in this project would be, initially, the Lake Ontario shoreline from Niagara to Oakville, extending ultimately to Kingston if circumstances permit.

Great Lakes Tomorrow, c/o 449 Bay Street North,
Hamilton L8L 1N2.

Gil Simmons

Dundas

On Saturday, February 6, members of the ACO Advisory Board visited Dundas to investigate and make recommendations to Town Council on the Grafton and Music Hall blocks.

The land and buildings referred to as the "Grafton block", had been occupied since 1853 by Grafton and Company, Clothing Manufacturers. The company is now out of business, the buildings empty, and rumor has it that they are planning to redevelop their block. As the block occupies a key corner site in the downtown, and the surrounding buildings are of the same scale and time, the Dundas LACAC asked for the advice of the ACO Advisory Board. The "Grafton block" has some potential for economically feasible preservation or recycling in a scheme involving new construction only on the interior of the block and along part of Ogilvie Street. There is a long battle ahead to convince Town Council (not to mention the Grafton Realty Company) of the merits of such a scheme over total clearance and an all new "big city" type development.

The "Music Hall block" on King Street West between Foundry Street and Memorial Square, has been vacant and in disrepair for years. The owner wishes to redevelop with a project at greater intensity than is possible, given the Town's height by-law. The Town wishes to see something, almost anything, done with the block. Right now the matter is in the courts and nothing is likely to happen overnight. The ACO Advisory Board will express its opinion on the desirability and possibility of preservation of the "Music Hall block" to Dundas Council.

Dundas conservationists certainly have their work cut out for them and the ACO is trying to take a role in their struggle to hold on to the streetscapes of Dundas.

Events, Past, Present, and Future

An illustrated talk on the "Merging Histories of Dawson City, 1896 - 1977," by John Dale and Yuri Rubinsky, Monday, February 21st.

A discussion with George Kapelos, Planner with the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Monday, March 28th.

A committee is making plans for one week in September that we hope to have the Mayors in our area proclaim as "Architectural Conservation Week". Our branch would be sponsoring special heritage events and encouraging other organizations and businesses to participate. We hope that such a week would increase public awareness of

our architectural heritage and as a result we would hope public support of our preservation efforts would improve.

Postscript to APT Conference

Following the tours to military sites and around old Niagara two welcome breaths of fresh thought gave relief to the proceedings. The first was a delightful presentation by Ann Leighton (Mrs. Isadore Smith) in a succinct and well illustrated talk on the background and effects of Victorian landscape, the trappings of the age which epitomize the period and create the essential atmosphere of the fashion and taste of the day. An enthusiastic and entertaining speaker, Ann Leighton is also an author of note on the history of American gardens. We hope to be able to review her latest book in the next issue of ACORN.

The second change of pace was presented by Norman Pearson, noted Canadian planner and Professor of Political Science at the University of Western Ontario, who spoke on Preservation, a Planning Dilemma. In his talk Professor Pearson alluded to the complexity of ordinances often hampering attempts to save old buildings especially in urban settings and the lack of coherent, comprehensive policies expressed in simple, workable terms to support preservation generally and the continued use of old buildings in particular.

P.J.S.

HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

People in the Cambridge region are becoming more aware of heritage work. Needless to say, some of that awareness takes the form of opposition. But one can at least fight opposition; one can't fight apathy, which has been, unfortunately, a dominant factor mere for years. Cambridge still has many fine buildings. Some of the best stone work in Ontario is to be found here.

Heritage Cambridge is shortly going to publish a paper by Professor Gordon Couling on the stone architecture of this region. Our fight to save one outstanding stone building, Preston Public School in downtown Preston, seems lost, though a vital action committee of Preston residents is still making every effort to delay destruction of the building while further channels are explored for its preservation.

* * * * *

A LACAC Appointed

Heritage Cambridge has been trying for some

time to get a LACAC formed in our area, and at last one has been appointed. While we have only one representative on the Committee, Katherine Hebblethwaite, the chairman, Bill Barlow, is also a member of our Heritage Cambridge board, as is another member of the committee, John Bell. We hope that in time this group may become a strong force for the preservation of significant buildings in the city.

Heritage Day Workshop

By the time this goes to press, Heritage Month, February, will be passed, but at present we are looking forward to celebrating what we hope will become a national holiday by attending a seminar to be held here in Cambridge at the Gore Mutual Insurance Company building. It is being arranged by the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, with the help of several Heritage Cambridge members, Gerry Musselman, our Past-President, being one. Called a Heritage Day Workshop, it will feature George Notter, a famous restoration architect from Boston, as the chief speaker. A former head of the Massachusetts State body of the American Institute of Architects, Mr. Notter has done extensive work in rehabilitating old buildings in Boston, Salem, and Newburyport. There will also be a slide presentation of old buildings in the Waterloo Regional area, indicating the heritage wealth in this district, followed by a panel discussion. Douglas Cook of the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ontario Government, will be one member of the panel. It is hoped that this seminar will focus attention on heritage legislation and on the practical restoration and rehabilitation of old buildings and areas of worth. A special effort is being made to get people involved in planning, real estate, and development to attend. We are most fortunate to have such a body as the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation in our area. Funded by tax money, it is able to do things which our group of volunteers cannot attempt. We are always sure of a sympathetic hearing, and sometimes actual support, if we appeal to them in any of our heritage work. It was a grant from the Foundation which enabled us to publish our Walking Tour and our Driving Tour booklets which are proving quite popular.

* * * * *

Heritage Cambridge is at present working on producing an audio-visual presentation which we will be able to use when we are asked to speak at clubs and schools in the area. We are also hoping to tape interviews with older residents of the

district who may have anecdotes and information of early days worth preserving. Andrew Taylor is working on this. Mr. Taylor has published several books and pamphlets about local history, and is himself a descendant of an early pioneer.

LONDON REGION

Draft Proposal for the Central London District Plan



ACORN readers may recall an account of the preparatory planning for revitalization of London's Central District being done by a Citizen's Advisory Group and Staff Members of the Planning Department of the City of London. (ACORN I-2, page 9) This report is now available, and might give some interesting guidelines. The policies are too numerous to include, but glancing quickly down the list one reads that no undue transportation difficulties would ensue from the proposed development, and no undue over-use of community facilities, such as schools and recreational facilities. The City will undertake a tree planting and replacement program on the streets in established residential neighbourhoods. A number of buildings, structures and properties have been identified as being of architectural significance, and the maintenance and rehabilitation of these shall be encouraged by Council. Council shall co-operate with and assist citizen groups wishing to establish co-operative park or mini-park facilities in their neighbourhoods. Bicycle paths and pedestrian paths will be provided along the east bank of the Thames River. Requests for copies of the Draft Proposal should be forwarded to, The Secretary, Planning Board, City Hall, 300 Dufferin Ave., London, Ontario, N6B 1Z2.

* * * * *

The program prospectus for the New Year includes a January Tour of St. Peter's Basilica, an illustrated architectural-historical presentation on Dawson City by John Dale and Yuri Rabinski in February, and in March a branch member, Walter Lake, will speak on his own area of research: London Cottages. Walter, and his wife Mary, live in Teale Cottage (1872), Woodfield, in Central London. Teale Cottage was open for viewing during the Branch's 1976 Geranium Tour III: "Woodfield Rambles".

* * * * *

Hasti-notes as mementoes

The Women's Committee of the London Art Gallery, in response to requests for mementoes

from visitors to their Gallery Shop has had sketches of buildings, and groups of buildings, reproduced for hasti-notes, as well as for 12" x 17" prints. The decision to do so coincided with the tour, "Woodfield Rambles"; thereupon, five of the subjects for the sketches were to be seen on Geranium Tour III. The hasti-notes were available for purchase on time for the Tour. Below is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lake, the Charles Teale Cottage 1872.



(A 'thank you' to the Women's Committee of the London Art Gallery for obtaining permission for us to use the hasti-note drawing. Ed.)

The ACO London Region Branch is deeply grateful to the Women's Committee for their initiating the project that is of certain and increasing appreciation of our architectural heritage; as well, their generous arrangement for sales by Branch Members (at cost price) has benefitted our treasury.

The sketches were done by two of our Members: Mrs. Joyce Allen, and Miss Silvia Clarke, as well as by Mr. Kevin Bice, the son of an ACO member. It was Miss Clarke's drawing of the Bank of Upper Canada in the Labatt Ridout Street Restoration in London — now occupied by a branch of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce — that was presented to that Bank at our Annual meeting at the Head Office in December, 1975. Hasti-notes (6 for \$2.00 plus tax) and reproductions (\$2.00 plus tax) are available from the Gallery Shop, London Public Library and Art Museum, 305 Queens Avenue, London, Ontario.

* * * * *

Advance Publicity — Annual Tour

Geranium Tour IV. The Date: Sunday, June 5th, 1977.

* * * * *

"Toronto Life," February, 1977, includes an article of perhaps some interest or value to

preservationists; to wit: 'The new aesthetics of renovation chic'. by Marq de Villiers. Considerable objectivity of wit is required — of which this reader was unable to muster sufficient — to appreciate the article, as well as its tone, to the full.

S.W.

* * * * *

A Time for Advancing Preservational Views

A branch member gave an illustrated talk on our architectural heritage to a joint meeting of several Optomist Clubs in London. A review of styles, architectural details, streetscapes, compatible infill, legislation and publications was presented. The questions that followed evidenced a favourable reaction to the principles of preservation, and much interest in London's heritage.

One Optomist, also a Member of the Canadian Legion Branch, which owns and uses the Richardsonian Romanesque "Oakhurst", 1888, (now Buchan House), raised a question regarding replacing a slate roof. The Branch (which generously opened Buchan House for our Geranium Tour II), attempted to replace the no-longer functional slate roof, but being unable to find craftsmen, reluctantly contracted for an asphalt one.

The slate roofing of the handsome towers, which flank the façade, is still extant, and will serve as a record until men and material may be found that will make it possible for preservational principles to be executed as the Legion Branch had wished. Any information on slate roofing will be appreciated.

(PJS note: The slate roof on Victoria Hall, Cobourg, has just been restored by the Dean-Chandler Co. Ltd., of Toronto).

* * * * *

Preservationists take heart!

Good News from other publications:

May restore old post office (Strathroy Age-Dispatch, Nov. 11, 1976) Intend to Designate Building 'Historical'.

"Strathroy council is proceeding with the necessary steps to designate the old post office building as Heritage Conservation property because of its historical and architectural value to the community.

The old building, which was constructed in 1889, has been described as a real landmark by Douglas Koch from the Ministry of Culture and Recreation. In an address to council in October,

Mr. Koch noted that money is available through the Heritage Foundation and also Wintario to restore the structure.

After the town passes a by-law designating the structure as an historical building, the town can then apply to the Heritage Foundation for a grant and also for a study to be undertaken which would indicate the long range plans for the building.

A portion of the historical significance of the building is attributed to the fact it was designed by architect Thomas Fuller. He is the same architect who designed the first parliament buildings in Ottawa and he became the Dominion architect. During the late 1800's he designed some eighty-two buildings across the country many like the Strathroy post office which were based on the 'National Style'. There were thirty-five such buildings in Ontario, but only twelve are still around today and of those only three are categorized as in a good state like the one in town.

Over the past couple of months there has been a great deal of public interest in saving the old post office and once again getting the clock and bell assembly back in operation."

* * * * *

The Marsh General Store

The St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has recently undertaken the acquisition and restoration of the historic Marsh General Store in the community of Coldstream in Lobo Township. Coldstream is a small hamlet located about 12 miles west of London and one mile north of the village of Poplar Hill. The Marsh General Store has served the Coldstream community for over 100 years and dates back to 1850, when Elizabeth Wood first opened a small general store, the nucleus of the present building, a short distance outside Coldstream.

In 1862, Jacob Marsh married Elizabeth Wood's daughter, Louisa, and he took over the management of the store. When Elizabeth Wood died in 1867, Jacob Marsh moved the store to its present location in the hamlet of Coldstream, so that it would be closer to the family's Saw and Woollen Mills. The Marsh family had operated these mills since 1847. The General Store was enlarged in 1870. Jacob Marsh died in 1930 and left the store to his son Roy Marsh. The store remained in operation until 1955, when Roy Marsh died and the store was transferred to his son, Glenn Marsh.

Although closed, the building has remained in the Marsh family until the present day. Now the



THE MARSH STORE AROUND 1875

St. Clair Region Conservation Authority has purchased the property to preserve this valuable link with the past. During the period of operation, the building served the community as a store, a Post Office, a Telegraph Office, a Community Library, a Telephone Exchange, a Municipal Council Chamber, and an Insurance Office in addition to being a residence for the Marsh family. With this multiplicity of uses the building played an important role in the development of the area and served as the focal point of the community's social and commercial activities for the better part of a century.

The Conservation Authority's objective is to stabilize the building against further structural deterioration combined with the restoration of the interior and exterior to the proper appearance of the building in the 1870's. On the inside of the building, the main room of the store will be restored and furnished as a general store combined with exhibits displaying the multi-purpose function of the structure i.e. Post Office, Telegraph Office and so on. The balance of the downstairs rooms will be furnished to depict family living quarters (parlour-dining room, bedroom), the community library and reading room, and an artifact storage area.

The upstairs portion of the building will be used as an outdoor education centre in conjunction with the outdoor education school at the adjacent, Coldstream Conservation Area. One large room will be used for classroom space and audio-visual demonstrations while other smaller rooms will be used for display purposes.

The purchase price of the store and its ac-

companying property was \$30,000. Funds for the acquisition came from the St. Clair Region Conservation Foundation which contributed \$15,000, Norman Brooks Construction Ltd. of London \$5,000, the Township of Lobo \$4,500, the County of Middlesex \$2,000 and a local community fund raising drive which netted a further \$3,700.



The estimated cost of restoration is \$65,000, while refurbishing will cost an additional \$18,500. Grants from the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Wintario will provide the bulk of the funding for restoration.

John F. King,
Resources Manager
St. Clair Region
Conservation Authority

HURON COUNTY

Huron Historic Gaol, Goderich Historic Site and Potential Cultural Centre Master Plan Being Discussed.

Huron Historic Gaol, a federal historic site in the Town of Goderich, has taken another stride forward as the Board of Directors gave preliminary approval to a 'master plan' for site restoration recently. The plan calls for restoration of the building to the period of the 1850's. The first phase in the implementation of the plan will be detailed consultation with the Town of Goderich, the County of Huron, the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The plan is a significant step forward in that it specifies the direction to be taken in the restoration of this architecturally significant site. The historic aspect will become more visible to the thousands of summer visitors as work proceeds with the re-creation of the mid-19th century



courtroom and Council Chamber housed on the third floor of the building. An important chapter in the history of Huron County will be re-told — the 1839 construction was begun as the local response to government requirements for the establishment of 'Huron' as a separate district with its own facilities for the administration of justice and government affairs.

The plan also speaks to the question of incorporating facilities to accommodate the performing and visual arts. A theatre complex has been recommended, to be housed in an inner courtyard in a manner to complement the existing architecture and preserve the majestic atmosphere of the gaol's octagonal design.

The Board intends to pursue detailed discussion with government and citizen alike in dealing with the concepts in the overall plan. Work is expected to proceed with the implementation of the historic aspect as soon as possible, but lengthy and detailed discussions are anticipated prior to the implementation of recommendations for the performing and visual arts.

The plan for restoration is an energizing culmination to the three year success story of this building as a national monument. It points to dramatic developments in the coming months and relegates the 1973 demolition plans to a very dark corner, indeed.

Article prepared by Paul Carroll,
Chairman of the Huron Historic
Gaol Board.

Sketches by Nick Hill

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from other associations

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Heritage Ottawa is considering the idea of recognizing significant contributions to the cause of architectural conservation, perhaps in the form of an annual award. This award could be given

on Heritage Day, (in 1977 it is February 21st). Members are invited to submit the names of persons who the member nominates as meriting recognition for their significant participation in Heritage work in the past year (or years). Mail your nominations to Heritage Ottawa at Box 570, Station "B", Ottawa, K1P 5P6.

* * * * *

Restoration activity continues in Ottawa, and a number of buildings have been completed and opened to the public or are nearing completion. Next time you are downtown in Ottawa go around to the intersection of Rideau and Waller where you will see 183-189 Rideau Street restored and the ground floor space occupied by commercial enterprises. Across the corner, the Marble Works nears completion. Along Rideau Street, Dworkin Furs Ltd. is completing an attractive renovation of their fine heritage structure.

* * * * *

Sunnyside Avenue Firehall

The old firehall was preserved and adapted, by the city, two years ago, for use by community groups. Plays such as "Buffalo Jump", put on by the Great Canadian Theatre Company are shown there. The theatre company considers the firehall ideally suited for the kinds of productions they do. They are an Ottawa based company, community oriented. Heritage Ottawa is pleased to note in the paper that the City is calling tenders to renovate the building to a community centre. The value of this heritage building has been demonstrated, and its continuing use by the community seems assured.

* * * * *

Heritage Ottawa Gallery

The exhibition, "Beaver Motifs", was held over until February 20th. The next exhibition opened Saturday, March 12th, entitled "Heritage Sculpture", is a display of colour photographs by Lawrence Hayward of selected works of approximately twenty sculptors. It will run until May 14, 1977,

* * * * *

Heritage Ottawa's Own Archives

The Archives Committee led by Mrs. Betty Ellis are assembling material and setting up their archives at the John Street headquarters.

(What an excellent thing. Would that some of our branches could do the same. Ed.)

HERITAGE CANADA

The Recycling Questionnaire

Ken Kelly reports that results to date have not been particularly sparkling (in number). The questionnaire is somewhat the same as that of Mrs. Garland's except the latter's is for banks only, and does not go into the detail that Heritage Canada does.

To quote the introduction, "Many heritage structures which were designed and built for one purpose and which now, through rehabilitation and adoption, have taken on new functions, are becoming more and more common. Heritage Canada is conducting an inventory of such buildings. If you know of a structure which has been recycled, please let them know. Heritage Canada, P.O. Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa, K1P 5R4.

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In their bulletin for February, the President, Jean Cole, mentioned that the year 1976 will go down as the year they launched the Hutchison House restoration. The work connected with the restoration claimed much of the attention of the members during that year. Mrs. Cole mentioned the Vice-president, Charles Huffman, who not

only chaired the Fund Raising Committee, but as Chairman of the Building Committee co-ordinated the architects' and contractor's efforts and applied his considerable expertise on the Society's behalf. Mrs. Cole also mentioned Anne Heideman, who, as Chairman of the Management and Furnishings Committees supervised the regular maintenance of the house, and began her task of acquiring suitable furnishings for the restoration.

A spring Garage Sale convened by Betty Farquharson raised more than \$900., and the Christmas Wine and Cheese Party allowed the public to have a preview of the building interior. This party was also convened by Betty Farquharson.

Martha Kidd, Chairman of the Old Buildings committee, reports much work done on the inventory of historic buildings, and has also devoted a great deal of time to the city-appointed Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, of which she is Vice-chairman. Mrs. Kidd hopes that in time every structure in Peterborough erected prior to 1890 will be recorded in architectural and historic detail. The present aim is to complete the recording of those buildings which lie within the original confines of Peterborough. These amount to nearly 900 structures.

AROUND AND ABOUT: HAPPENINGS IN ONTARIO

ALEXANDRIA

The mill on Mill Square in Alexandria has been empty for a year, and last August the local newspaper pondered on its fate suggesting in an editorial that the "future of our town may be tied to the imagination and initiative we demonstrate in dealing with the old mill". A committee of the Historical Society was endeavouring to interest Heritage Canada in assisting its restoration.

BARRIEFIELD

A bypass of this historic village on the eastern edge of Kingston has been surveyed to take through traffic out of the older section. The bypass, an extension of the southern end of Highway 15, from Smiths Falls and Carleton Place is planned to the east of the church southwards to connect to Highway 2. Barriefield could become an Historic Conservation District.

BELLEVILLE

Two items of interest are related to this city: first a mention of Mary Peacock Fryer's new book, *Loyalist Spy*, the story of Capt. John Walden Meyers who settled beside Meyers Creek on the present site of Belleville.

Secondly, St. Thomas' Church, rebuilt within the walls over a century old, after a disastrous fire in April, 1975, was reconsecrated last November by the Right Reverend Henry R. Hill, Bishop of Ontario.

CAMBRIDGE

The Grand River Conservation Authority was to sponsor "The Clowns in Fantasy National Park" on Tuesday, 7 December, part of a tour organized by Parks Canada and Heritage Canada last July. The clowns apparently present a performance dealing with themes of ecology, nature

and the out-of-doors from a clown's point of view, open to all viewers over six years of age.

(PJS note — conservation begets strange bedfellows!)

* * * * *

GRCA's Citizens' Advisory Committee's chairman, Dr. George Priddle, resigned last October over the implications of the West Montrose dam (referred to in previous issues of ACORN) citing a number of criticisms to the study released on 13th of October including the lack of adequate study of alternatives to this obviously destructive scheme and the fact that the report treated public participation far too lightly.

* * * * *

Pottery is now being made and sold in the home of Galt's first mayor, Morris Lutz. (Lutz saw to the erection of the Town Hall in 1857, preserved in 1966, but the interior regrettably damaged by vandals on a senseless spree recently). Sam Morris, the potter, and her husband are working on the building which stands on Water Street North.

DOON

The home of Homer Watson, along with the site of the former Doon School of Fine Arts, was put up for sale last fall. The house was enlarged in the 1890's by the addition of the artist's studio although it is reported that the living quarters date from 1834. Photographs indicate the exterior to be somewhat later, possibly not before 1860, so that it would appear to be a fascinating composite. The house is a National Historic Site which often carries no more than a plaque with it. The owner, Ruthe Cayley, has been seeking a public spirited body for some time to take over the property, including the house, the sixteen cabins which housed students coming to work with such noted artists as Carl Schaefer, Frederick Varley, Jack Bechtel and John Martin, and three and one half acres — the asking price was near a quarter of a million dollars.

ETOBICOKE

Except for the name of a major borough of Metro Toronto, the old centre has all but been lost in megalopolis. The old Township Hall, occupied first in 1886 had an older section constructed in 1843. The building has since been much enlarged, housing more recently Metro licensing offices. A community arts centre has been suggested as a suitable use, but reports for its reha-

bilitation have suggested a price tag of \$200,000 or more. The Etobicoke LACAC recommended designation of the building last June on historic and architectural grounds.

FERGUS

The Fergus and District Jaycees are working on the preservation of the old CNR station as their clubhouse and have been engaged in various activities to raise funds for the project.

GLENCOE

Glencoe is the only stop on the Toronto-Windsor CN line between London and Chatham (try the train next time). We remember the station looking in need of some attention for it was built as the Grand Trunk and Wabash in 1900. Locally it is hoped that it will not be torn down like the Post Office. However, the McDonald-Moss House of 1854, in the Moss family's possession since 1905, is a handsome red brick house of two storeys and a five bay front.

GRIMSBY

The Smith Mansion, c.1878, often known as the Geddes House, is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Germann who came from Switzerland. The Germanns have put a great deal of effort and money into its preservation in the past few years and look forward to its designation under the Heritage Act. The house is, by today's standards, a huge stone building, and boldly Victorian with elaborate interior trim. And a little wisdom in Mrs. Germann's words — "You don't have to be rich and you can't make it look the same as it did 100 years ago. — You weren't around then to see it. If you can blend life today with life of the past and make it work then you've accomplished something. The house has had a good effect on our marriage. We worry together about it. . . Besides, we worked so hard on it some days, we were too tired to argue."

GUELPH

Horace Perry came from Port Hope to build a grist mill on the Speed River in 1830 for the Canada Company, and in the same year, William Allan and his family arrived from Edinburgh. Allan purchased Perry's mill and took possession in 1832. (Whatever became of Perry?) The Allan Mill was enlarged and in its last heyday presented an imposing structure of slightly baronial effect with corner turrets and bold stonework. Neglected and ravaged by fires only a vestige remained to

be considered, but advised against, as a possible site for the Guelph Civic Museum. Now all has gone — the site is now known as Allan's Mill Park to be dedicated as part of Guelph's 150th anniversary.

* * * * *

At last the City of Guelph has formally approved purchase of the old Knights of Columbus Hall at Waterloo and Dublin, and the Guelph Civic Museum is assured of permanent quarters in a building designated of "architectural and historic importance". This is to be one of Guelph's official 150th anniversary projects. Peter John Stokes is consultant on exterior restoration of the c.1847 building.

IROQUOIS

The Carman House, c.1819, for over a century bearing the thunder of trains past its back door, and now in secluded silence overlooking the Seaway, was finally delivered into local hands for safekeeping after many vicissitudes worth a book, in the 1960's. Now its future use and active enjoyment is being reconsidered in a scheme being prepared by Jan Reed.

LITTLE RAPIDS

Interest in preserving the 1880 school in this Thessalon Township community has been expressed by a local group meeting with Council, bringing ideas for the project and the forming of a Heritage Association for the purpose of promoting the cause.

LONDON

The London Public Library Board has approved a symbol for the proposed London History Centre: this is a stylized view of Grosvenor Lodge prepared by industrial designer James Warren for a fund-raising blitz. Grosvenor Lodge is a Gothic Revival house built by Samuel Peters in 1853 and left to the University of Western Ontario. Preliminary investigation on preservation measures and renovations is under the local architectural firm of Nolan and Glover.

* * * * *

The Grand Theatre is about to undergo a \$4.6 million renovation calculated according to Peter Smith, the architect, to restore the auditorium to its 1901 grandeur while creating new lobby spaces which will not form an abrupt change in styles as decorative accents from the present building are introduced into the new public areas. A sketch

of the new Richmond Street front shows a bold modern façade which seems to bear little, if any, attention to its present neighbours. Is it hoped, perhaps, that the neighbours will change?

* * * * *

The future of Saunbury's Mill built in 1848 and London's last remaining mill, was in doubt last fall. It was one of the first brick buildings in the city. In 1972 an ambitious project to change the use to a restaurant, blessed by the City's Committee of Adjustment, the ACO London Branch and the Upper Thames Conservation Authority was turned down by the OMB on the objections of local residents fearing increased traffic on their streets.

NEWMARKET

The Alexander Muir Public school property was declared a Newmarket Historic site late last summer and was being considered as a site for the Municipal Library. The Scheme was to consider the site for a new structure linked to the old school building of 1891, the latter to include a reading room, and such uses as archives, museum and education centre on local history.

NIAGARA FALLS

An unlikely candidate for imaginative re-use is a scrap metal office, but in the hands of Don Chapman, architect, the old stone mill building on Robinson Street is being rehabilitated as the focus of the Stone Place Inn, to house a restaurant and accompanying a 115 room motel.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

A Heritage Committee of three members of Council has been set up to study revived plans for preserving the old Courthouse 1847 by William Thomas, latterly the Town Hall of old Niagara. The Committee is looking toward bringing the 1973 Feasibility Study up to date, and community use of the structure is favoured with perhaps offices for government agencies and the like.

* * * * *

The LACAC for Niagara-on-the-Lake has not been revived yet; ACTION (Associated Concerned Citizens In Old Niagara) and people interested in the preservation of this unique community await its reappointment, indicated by Lord Mayor Wilbert Dick recently, and view continued delay with great concern.

OAKVILLE

The historic Chisholm property at the foot of Navy Street with its Customs House, the main house and a beautifully treed lot of some size is an Oakville landmark and unquestionably an historic site as the former home of William Chisholm, the town's founder. It would be fitting should the property come into Oakville's hands; we await developments.

* * * * *

Later Development

Chisholm Estate Doomed

Mr. Andrew Duane of Toronto, owner of the Chisholm Estate, feels that his property should be in public ownership and be preserved as parkland. The four acre site on the east bank of Sixteen Mile Creek contains the home of Oakville's founder, William Chisholm, and a former custom house. He said he offered to sell the property to the town in 1975 but received no answer, and will submit a plan of subdivision for single-family homes soon, and the plan will entail destruction of the Chisholm Estate and the customs house. Mr. Duane applied ten days ago for a demolition permit, but the town is withholding issuance of the permit under a provincial statute that forbids a landowner from demolishing a historic building on his property for 180 days. Mr. Duane feels his property to be the number one priority for public acquisition in Oakville.

So far as is known the Old Granary is to remain on its original site, but plans for its future remain in doubt.

OTTAWA

New uses for the Billings House c.1831 and its estate near Billings Bridge, taken over by the City of Ottawa in 1975, to prevent high rise development of the property are now being considered by the city. Suggestions for the house as a museum and the grounds for picnickers were not enthusiastically received by Councillors, apparently.

OTTERVILLE

Woodlawn, an 1860 board and batten octagon house built by Thomas Wright in nearby Milldale was moved last summer to this community to be preserved by the Norwich South Heritage Committee and used as a senior citizens' centre.

PAISLEY

Not only was the first phase of this village's main street improvement scheme completed under the direction of Dr. Owen Scott, landscape architect from Guelph, but now the Town Hall is being preserved under the direction of the noted B. Napier Simpson Jr.

However, early last fall, while an older "cat" was away attending the Kingston Symposium on heritage preservation, young local "mice" after removing most of the movables let loose the flood in the old sawmill nearly causing disaster to the wheel and remaining machinery if not injury to themselves. (It's an old, off repeated — and not very encouraging story).

PETROLIA

With the help of a summer student the town prepared for heritage building and district designation and was revising its Official Plan to make way for this historic step.

PICKERING

While old Pickering, the Village and Township, are swallowed up by the new Town of Ajax in the Durham Region shuffle, local people still recall their old municipal buildings in Brougham, the township centre at Highway 7 and the Brock Road. Brougham is a ghost of its former self, but still has its old hall of 1858, used until 1944, the old Brougham Hotel used from 1944 and 1967. Small local communities in the area, like Whitevale, are covered by new plans for the North Pickering project and the shadow of an airport that few, if any, really want.

PONTYPOOL

A letter was received by the Port Hope Branch asking for help in saving the C.P.R. station in that village. Two members, one an architect, plan to visit the place in the near future. In the meantime, a letter is being sent to the C.P.R. head office.

If anyone knows anything about this station, will he please contact Mrs. Garland, 86 Augusta Street, Port Hope.

PORT DOVER

The Port Dover Board of Trade spearheaded discussions of the future of the town last winter. Studies recommended attention to the Town Hall, Mud Inn and Rockford area of the new City of Nanticoke as well as the preservation of Port Dover's nautical heritage, suggesting a marine

museum be established for such purposes. The Town Hall was mentioned particularly for preservation with consideration of better services and new uses as a community arts and recreation centre including theatre, for the auditorium was said to have excellent acoustics. A Summer Festival takes place in August.

PRESCOTT

Restoration of the Forwarder's Museum was proceeding in late fall last year with the re-covering of the roof in wood shingles discovered to be the first roofing used. Jack Rempel is advisor to the Prescott Museum Board of Management in the work.

* * * * *

Concern is being voiced about new additions to the Grenville County Registry Office, a good example of the typical pattern devised by the Provincial architect in the late 1860's. These excellent buildings are frequently marred by senseless modernization like that in Napanee where brickwork was sandblasted and the original door replaced by modern mediocrity.

SALEM

The order is Fergus, Elora and Salem, the mill sites along the Grand and Irvine Rivers. A request for rezoning of a residential property in Salem to allow a restaurant in the historic Erb House was accompanied by a statement that the owners planned to retain its "colonial architectural character". (We hope that the prospective new owners realize the gravity of that responsibility for far too many Canadian commercial interiors have ended as tawdry Tudorbethan or romany Italianate.)

SHAKESPEARE

Work on the Fryfogel Inn built in 1844 continues as Phase 2 is undertaken by the Perth County Historical Board. LKG Services Limited of Stratford are replacing the structure in the main floor.

TORONTO

Toronto Calendar Magazine in its September 1976 issue contains an article about "alternative" theatre (our quotes — for we presume this means other than the usual and legitimate) and its re-use of old buildings. Despite the suggestion that sandblasting revitalizes neglected old buildings (how fresh would you feel if somebody chipped

away your skin?) — there are some encouraging notes. These include the use of the old TTC car plant at Frederick and Front Streets by the Young People's Theatre, the enjoyment of part of the old Toronto Gas Works by the Toronto Free Theatre, and the proposed Adelaide Court. Cour Adelaide formed by the Open Circle Theatre, Theatre Du P'tit Bonheur and New Theatre which will occupy the old Magistrates' Court House at 57 Adelaide Street East, built in 1852 to the designs of Cumberland and Storm.

By PJS garnered from the Clipping File of the Ontario Heritage Foundation to whom we are indebted.

MARGINALIA

WATCH is an environment club which with the Royal Institute of British Architects issued a challenge to youngsters as its contribution to European Architectural Heritage Year 1975. It sought the interest of those from 8 to 15 in the preservation of the country's architectural heritage and published the results of their efforts and activities which are very encouraging to read about in **Lifespan**. Activities include reports of threatened buildings, work by WATCH groups in promoting heritage preservation ideas by local lobbying, media coverage and finally conviction of the local planners and council of the soundness of the concept, as well as direction to those seeking action on the conservation of old buildings. WATCH is sponsored by the **Sunday Times** and has a club magazine called **Watchword**. Individual subscriptions to WATCH is payable to Advisory Centre for Education, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2, 1Q7, U.K.

Peter John Stokes

LACAC NEWS

The first number of LACAC News which appeared in September, 1976, was such a success that the next one is eagerly awaited. It is produced by the staff of the Heritage Administration Branch, Ministry of Culture and Recreation and should be of great value to the ever increasing numbers of Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees. Under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act, these LACACs are advising their councils which individual heritage properties and whole districts require the special protection afforded by the Heritage Act.

* * * * *

Architectural Conservation Projects: The Ontario Heritage Foundation and Wintario

Over the past year and a half, the Ontario Heritage Foundation has been involved with a wide variety of projects which aid in the preservation and enhancement of this province's architectural heritage. During that period, the Foundation has committed in excess of \$1,650,00 to various conservation projects across Ontario. This is money in addition to that spent on properties actually owned by the Foundation itself. More recently, groups have been applying to the provincial lottery — Wintario — for heritage related projects as well. In almost all cases, where money either from the Ontario Heritage Foundation or from Wintario has been granted for the restoration or adaptive use of a particular building, designation of that property, under the terms of the Ontario Heritage Act in order to assure its protection, has been a condition of the grant.

* * * * *

Appointing a LACAC

The Heritage Act does not require that Council appoint a LACAC before beginning to designate properties, but it is strongly recommended for several good reasons. First, the process of making an inventory — doing research and describing the buildings — takes time which most elected officials and municipal staffs cannot afford. The LACAC can organize dozens of volunteers among retired people, members of the historical society or the Women's Institute, who are happy to have a part to play in a heritage inventory project.

Second, like all new programmes, heritage conservation needs to be explained to the community and to the owners of properties which may be designated. During the short time the Heritage Act has been in force, there have been many instances of owners objecting to designation until they knew what it meant. Providing information about the local heritage programme is just as important as making an inventory, but again this can take up a great deal of time.

The third reason for appointing a LACAC is the same reason very few Councils try to prepare an official plan without assistance from a planner, or build a trunk sewer system without an engineer. It is a specialized business. It takes people who are interested and knowledgeable in history, town planning, design or architecture to develop the best recommendations for Council why one building is of greater heritage importance than another. This does not mean that Council cannot

decide for other reasons not to accept some of the recommendations of the LACAC, but Council is best served when it receives the best advice available.

Where a LACAC is appointed, the Act requires it have no fewer than five members. Many of the Committees established so far have added to this number, and some are as large as fifteen. This gives plenty of scope to bring strength on to the Committee so that it may do its job properly. Most Committees include people who are known to be knowledgeable in local history and a few have found architects who were willing to serve. Liaison between the Committee and Council is often ensured by the appointment of a member or two from Council to the Committee. This is the pattern in Toronto with the Toronto Historical Board and has worked very well for several years. Other types who could make a contribution to the Committee's work include lawyers, planners, people who work in the local media and in real estate. Of course, there is no substitute for common sense and one or two citizens with this quality in great quantity can make a very useful contribution.

When the Committee has been appointed, its statutory responsibility is to advise Council on the designation of properties and with respect to alterations proposed to properties which Council has designated previously. While there have been very few applications for alterations to designated properties in any municipality yet, it is anticipated that this process could work best through negotiation rather than confrontation. Here again, the local Committee can probably provide Council with needed support.

COMING EVENTS

Historic Preservation Maintenance Workshop

May 23 - 27, 1977

Sponsored by

National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Park Service Training Institute

This short course is designed to assist property managers, administrators and others responsible for the continuing preservation and contemporary use of historic structures. The one-week program, in its third year, is sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service Training Institute.

A team of instructors, which includes maintenance managers, architects, conservators and craftsmen, will discuss maintenance problems associated with a variety of structures and sug-

gest solutions based upon the techniques of evaluating present conditions and establishing maintenance schedules and budgets. Special emphasis will be given to buildings used as architectural displays which have period rooms containing important decorative finishings, furniture and objects. The course will employ both classroom presentations and on-site field work to study the preservation of materials and structures.

The course will cover such topics as,

Planning, Scheduling and Budgeting of Maintenance

Analysis of Structural Systems and Building Envelope Materials

Analysis of Interiors (including finishes and the decorative arts)

Maintenance Functions (including inspecting, housekeeping, cyclic maintenance, minor works and emergency repairs).

Rooms will be available for all participants at the Treadway Inn in Newport at \$25.00 a day single occupancy and \$30.00 a day double occupancy. Further information concerning transportation and housing will be supplied to those enrolled in the course. (Tuition \$185.)

Make cheques payable to National Park Service Training Institute.

Write for application, (Deadline April 15, 1977) to:

National Trust for Historic Preservation,
740-748 Jackson Place, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20006, U.S.A.

* * * * *

Canada's Urban Past: A Conference on Canadian Urban History, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 12th, 13th and 14th May 1977, at the University of Guelph. For further information write to Gilbert A. Stelter, Conference Co-ordinator, Department of History, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. N1G 2W1.

BOOK REVIEW

Township Painting and Drawing:
Joseph (J.G.) Links, Harper and Row 1972

From the book-jacket: "In some of the Flemish fifteenth-century religious paintings by masters like Campin, Van Eyck and van der

Weyden, a miniature townscape is visible through an open window: a view which, detailed as it is, still takes up no more than perhaps a twentieth part of the picture. Three centuries later, with the work of Bellotto in Eastern Europe, and Canello in Venice and London, the street itself had become the subject of the picture, the people no more than incidental to the buildings. Here are traced the stages by which the art of the townscape developed during these three hundred years".

And how many interesting and engaging newly-designed streets have you seen lately? Maybe the reason lies in the words above — where people are merely incidental to the buildings, how can the street appeal? This book, generously illustrated and with a text which is scholarly and always direct and clear, makes a good companion to Bernard Rudofsky's **Streets For People** (Doubleday 1969) and should be required reading for all members of the Architectural Conservancy — visually healthy and happy streets are sound foundations for our valuable buildings; let streets become diseased and like gums in an unhealthy mouth, Giant Decay will attack the Ivory Castles, and down will come the architecture we have hoped to keep.

Gil Simmons

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Meet Me at the Station, by Elizabeth A. Willmot, Gage Publishing. Elizabeth Willmot recaptures an important part of our Canadian past. There are beautiful pictures of some of our old stations.

* * * * *

Sketches, Scholars, and Scandals, of a quiet college town, by Arthur L. Davies, J. M. Dent and sons (Canada) Ltd. According to the cover, Arthur Llewellyn Davies has devoted more than half a century to the newspaper business, for most of the time in the city of Kingston. During that long span of years he has taken a full part in the life of his community, — always with a newspaperman's eye alert for colour and detail. Possibly the only connection with architecture is the cover, but an interesting book.

* * * * *

The Future of the City, new Directions in Urban Planning, by Peter Wolf. First published in the U.S. 1974 by Whitney Library of Design, an imprint of Watson-Guptill Publications.

* * * * *

Urban Housing Strategies, Education and Realization, by Patrick I. Wakely, Hartmut Schmetzer, Babar K. Mumtaz, Pitman Publishing.

* * * * *

Building A New Town, Finland's New Garden City — Tapiola, The M.I.T. Press.

* * * * *

Designs of Cities, from Ancient Athens to modern Brasilia, by Edmund N. Bacon, Penguin Books. Looks interesting.

* * * * *

The Swing in the Garden, by Hugh Hood, Published in Canada by Oberon Press. Cover drawing by Lauren Harris. A novel dealing with the experience of living in Canada during the middle years of this century. The story begins in Toronto in 1930 and gives us vivid descriptions of the depression seen through the eyes of a boy. Toronto, its streets and its houses are accurately described, with the Yonge, St. Clair, Summerhill, MacLennan area mentioned in greater detail.

* * * * *

Palenque, The Walker-Caddy Expedition to the ancient Maya city, 1839 - 1840. Collected and edited by David M. Pendergast. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma. A book about a very different type of architecture, with Captain Caddy's report and drawings of the expedition. (See editorial re. Captain Caddy's painting of Galt.)

* * * * *

Moving and Erection of Log Buildings, by R. A. J. Phillips, \$2.00, plus 25c handling. This is a personal account of the techniques developed by the Phillips family over the past twelve years at their country place in the Gatineau. The paper discusses all phases of the project from measuring a building to developing a maintenance program once the building has been erected. May be ordered from Mrs. J. Morgan, Executive Secretary of Heritage Ottawa at Box 510, Station "B", Ottawa, K1P 5P6.

* * * * *

The National Capital Region Towns and Villages, by Gladys Blair and Clyde Blackburn, \$3.00. This National Capital Commission publication is a companion piece to **Heritage**, a book about old buildings in the Capital Region which was published last year.

* * * * *

Working Places, by Walter C. Kidney. This publication is sponsored by the Society for Industrial Archaeology and is a guide to the adaptive use of industrial structures. Intended for developers, tenants and preservationists, it treats the industrial building pragmatically as a piece of real estate changing function. Developers are finding direct money savings — and savings in time — in adapting industrial structures to new uses; their tenants appreciate the space such buildings offer, and their fine solid workmanship; preservationists have come to realize that such buildings have great architectural and historical value. Write to Society for Industrial Archaeology, National Museum of History and Technology, Smithsonian Institution, Wash., D.C. 20560.

STOP PRESS

The Council of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is planning to hold two of its meetings outside Toronto — on 28th of May, 1977, with Heritage Cambridge, (officially the June meeting), and on the 1st of October, 1977, with London.

ACO's New Address: c/o Association House, 191 College Street,
Toronto, Ontario M5T 1P7
Phone: (416) 979-1111

Many thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Courtney for typing the rough drafts. It is greatly appreciated by the editor.

M.W.G.

ACORN II - 1 was produced by Richard's Printing Ltd., Port Hope. The editor wishes to thank them for their co-operation and for alleviating some of the birth pangs of the first issue for 1977.

